

Application No. 10/705,335
Attorney Docket No. 141483.00003-P1243US00

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and the following remarks.

Regarding the Claims

Claims 1-8 were withdrawn previously. Claims 9-12 have been amended to address the Examiner's objections and to correct minor and the antecedent basis matters. Claim 11 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. Currently pending in the application, therefore, are Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13, of which Claim 9 is independent.

In the Specification, the Applicant has updated the status of the related application.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended Claim 9 by introducing the term "aperture" of the leather tile. Applicant has also created an antecedent basis for the phrase "said aperture of the semi-finished leather tile" of Claim 12 by introducing the term "semi-finished leather tile" in Claim 9.

Claims 9-10 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Libardet (U.S. 4,864,790) in view of Hirsch (U.S. 4,849,145) and Zegler et al. (U.S. 5,567,497) further in view of Yoshimi et al. (U.S. 4,860,506).

The Applicant has amended Claim 9, to include the features illustrated in Figure 12 and as described in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims as amended are patentable over the cited art.

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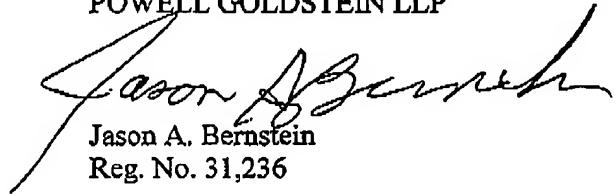
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Should the Examiner have questions or suggestions which will put this application in line for allowance, he or she is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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